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whatever they call it, where you don't lock people behind the bars and the walls, there always is emphasis placed on the numbers of nonviolent offenders who are languishing in the penitentiary. There is also breast beating and moaning about excessive sentences that these people are given based on the laws that you all enacted. Sin in haste, repent at leisure. The repentance time is coming, and it's very expensive. Prevention is better than cure. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. So how would it work if the courts accepted one of these lawsuits, reviewed the crowding situation in the penal system and said, you have to cut that amount of overcrowding immediately, and to do so you have to begin to release inmates. You are not going to be allowed to have an overcrowding above a certain line. The state begins to review the inmates who would be eligible for such a release, and they could find all of those people, the types of people whom Senator Engel told us, and I agree with him, would qualify for his work camp, those same types have been put on probation by some judges. There is no standard to determine why some were put on probation and some put in the penitentiary except that some things happen in certain parts of the state, certain things happen in certain parts of the state, and the person came before a certain judge. All those vagaries and variables. But nevertheless, there's general agreement that many people are in the penitentiary who pose no danger to society. They've served enough time to have paid what we call the debt they owe to society. The state has extracted its pound of flesh and has now gone into the muscle, the sinew, the bone, the marrow, the blood, which is an overpunishment. The Legislature,...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...if everybody on the floor right now decided that these sentences are too long and we should do something about them, have no power to litigate or lessen any of those sentences. We cannot do it. The constitution allows only the Pardons Board. However, the federal courts, the federal government is not bound by Nebraska law. If constitutional rights are implicated, U.S. constitutional rights, then the federal court will protect the rights of the people who are having those rights violated, and it would mean releasing some of these inmates. And I will continue when I get to speak next.